

ANNUAL DAMAGE INSPECTION TRAINING

Drought stricken California is again facing a potentially devastating wildfire season considering the scorching heat on moisture deprived hillsides aggravated by strong winds. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has already declared fire season in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento and planned to extend the designation to the rest of Northern California.

The Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) recognizes the threat of wildfires to lives and properties in the Los Angeles County and to this end, has conducted Damage Inspection (DINS) training on April 30, 2014 at Camp 2 of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The members of the DINS committee composed of Chief Bill Jones, Karen Coddling, Tony Payne, David Baltazar, Richard Clark, Jojo Comandante, Teresa Quiaoit, Jeff Holwager, Michael Uyehara, George Terastvadsadrian and Jeff Rooney, conducted the training with topics on the use of radio, communication protocol, mapping unit coordination, use of GPS, field inspection procedures, safety during deployment, personal protective equipment check and use of fire shelter.

DINS teams are sent to the field to make a thorough and accurate assessment of the extent of damages of affected



properties during a wildfire. The data that are gathered from this inspection are used by the Department to inform the public and those who are evacuated from the affected areas, the extent of the fire damage to their homes and properties. DINS will also be responsible for inspecting and overseeing the conditions of hazardous materials and hazardous waste that may have been affected by the fires. The DINS report will provide also to the Incident Command, the necessary data to extend other services, relief or assistance to the affected areas.

While the threat of wildfires is expected to remain extreme throughout the summer and fall, DINS personnel will continue to hone their skills and expertise until they are called for deployment.

New Employees



The new clerical staff in the Administration & Inspection Sections are from left to right: : Christopher Siverson, Senior Typist Clerk, Latanya Campbell, Intermediate Typist Clerk, Giovanni Campas, Student Professional Worker; Denise Rosas and Davit Poghosyan, both Student Workers.

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Haz Mat Release

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION



July 2014 Issue

Volume 13



BILL'S CORNER

In February, the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) received a very prestigious award from the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA). The Secretary's Environmental Achievement Award, was for the first time, given to an organization instead of an individual. The HHMD, in recognition for its leadership in a number of different areas, received this award for being at the forefront of new and innovative ways of doing business; participating in task forces and committees that engaged local government with State and Federal stakeholders; and by being well ahead of the rest of the State in their unique standing as the largest Unified Program Agency (UPA).

To receive this recognition from Cal EPA was especially rewarding as it is a testament to the individuals in this Division who took the initiative and did what had to be done to find the 'work around' to the challenges and difficulties that we faced. As we look forward to a number of different projects that are currently ongoing, we can clearly see that we are in line with the theme of the last CUPA Conference, "today's challenges will be tomorrow's accomplishments." While frustrating at times to deal with bureaucracies, delays or difficulties, HHMD staff have always stepped up to the plate to find how we can work together; not only within the Division but also with other stakeholders to accomplish our goals and objectives. This award was particularly special because Chief Deputy Mike Metro was present at the conference when we received the award, and joined the HHMD attendees in a group photograph.

One of the hallmarks of our profession has been the constantly changing landscape, and today is no different as we progress and change along many different and challenging fronts. The leadership and innovation that will be required will truly test our abilities. Some of these efforts will definitely pay back huge rewards in efficiency, standardization and modernization. As the largest UPA in the State, with more



CAL-EPA ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

facilities, responsibilities and complexities in Los Angeles County than any other, it is our duty to ensure we constantly strive to improve, innovate, streamline, update and replace old ways with better, more efficient methods. Some examples of major efforts in our Inspection Section include:

- Field tablet use by HHMD Inspection staff has begun. Our information must be accurate, complete, timely and documented properly. In addition, Inspectors will have to get used to carrying and safely handling a field tablet on inspections. Please be careful when you are using, storing and handling this equipment.
- The tablets will be utilized to collect and document inspection, violation, time and activity, and other information. When this information is uploaded into our Envisions database, certain pieces will then be uploaded into the State database (the California Environmental Reporting System or CERS) to provide compliance, inspection and enforcement information. Paper reports to the State will be eliminated and data elements present in CERS will offer information on a statewide basis that has not been available before for analysis, evaluation and planning. It is important to recognize that with the implementation of CERS, the State and many other interested parties will have access to the work we do (and how well we do our work). We must realize that with more potential eyes looking at detailed information, the likelihood of criticism is higher.
- Another challenge is the conversion of all the paper documents currently in our filing system into an electronic format. While we have yet to bring a vendor on board for the "data management system," the goals and objectives remain.

(Continuation on page 9)

Abandoned Underground Storage Tank
By Jennifer Levenson

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, “it has been reported that groundwater aquifers supply drinking water to approximately 50 percent of the nation’s overall population and 99 percent of the population in rural areas.” An unpermitted, out-of-service underground storage tank (UST) may leak into this aquifer and contaminate drinking water. Without proper permitting and closure, sampling and possibly additional clean-up, unpermitted and out-of-service USTs may threaten groundwater quality.

USTs are defined as “any one or combination of tanks, including pipes connected thereto, that is used for the storage of hazardous substances and that is substantially or totally beneath the surface of the ground.” A UST that is unpermitted and has been out of service for 12 months or more must be permitted and then removed or closed in place as required in CCR Title 23.

HMS staff has the potential to come across USTs during inspection, emergency response, or other field activities. Sometimes the presence of USTs in a facility may not be apparent. Hence, what should we be looking for to determine the presence of an unpermitted, out-of-service UST and, if found, what agency should we refer it to in order to facilitate its proper closure? Here are some indications:

- UST components observed, such as a fill pipe manway, vent riser(s), a fueling island canopy and dispenser concrete islands (with or without dispensers still present).

- No UST permit records.
- No UST monitoring panel.
- Site contact statements that the UST is “no longer used” and/or is “empty”.

Once a suspected unpermitted, out-of-service UST is identified, a referral should be made to the proper Participating Agency (PA) by using the link below to determine jurisdiction and to find contact information:

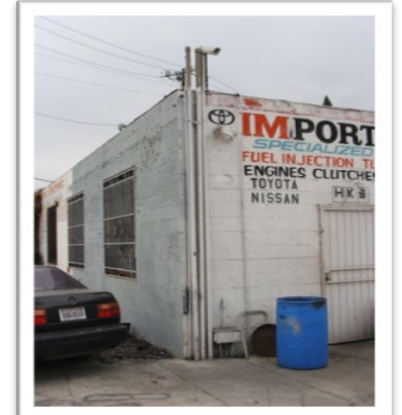
http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/UST/jur_org.cfm

Referral to the proper PA ensures that out of service USTs will be removed or closed in place under permit, with soil and/or sampling conducted to determine whether clean-up action is required due to contamination.

Recognition and referral of abandoned USTs is another way by which our inspectors can protect human health and the environment.



Fill Riser Manway



Vent Riser—Photos provided by LA Co Dept. Public Works

CERS Update
By George Terastvadsadrian

The transition to electronic reporting is marked by significant successes as well as new challenges for the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD). Many facets of the transition such as network, hardware and software upgrades have been completed despite significant delays. HHMD’s transition to electronic reporting continues to move forward with the implementation of an electronic field inspection system (efis) and electronic data transfer (EDT).

The upgrades to existing data systems have been partially completed up to Envision Connect 5.1 which will require a further upgrade to version 5.3 soon after the next permit billing. Another key component of the transition is efis, which is undergoing a two month testing period and was preceded by a week-long training for twelve HHMD staff who would provide the first line of support for other users once efis is expanded to include all staff. During the testing period, the participants will identify potential trouble spots, training needs and best practices.

A significant ongoing challenge continues to be the reconciliation of CERS data with Envision Connect. To this end,

the CERS Integration Wizard (CIW) is undergoing testing by Technical Services Unit (TSU) and Data Operations Unit (DOU) staff. Thus far, although there is some promise that CIW will ease the burden of manual data updates in the future, the existing processes will very likely continue as various aspects of CIW are gradually implemented.



Despite these challenges HHMD continues to be a leader in the State as demonstrated by the high percentage of businesses in the jurisdiction that have participated in electronic reporting despite HHMD’s high facility counts. Los Angeles County CUPA has an approximately 21% greater facility count than the second largest CUPA in the state. At present a minimum of 87% of facilities in the HHMD’s jurisdiction subject to the HMBP requirement, have submitted. To ensure high rates of public participation in CERS, HHMD is continuing its ongoing public outreach training campaign as well as mass email reminders to all facilities as they come due for their annual unified program submissions.

As the transition to electronic reporting continues, all HHDM staff from DOU to Inspections and specialty units, will face the challenges associated with the ongoing transition and will require the continued team effort that has propelled us thus far.

HHMD Retirees

BILL WESTCOTT—By Dan Yniguez

Bill Westcott received his Bachelor’s Degree in Health Sciences from California State University at Northridge in 1976. Upon passing the Registered Sanitarian exam, Bill went to work as a health inspector for the Alameda County Department of Public Health. The following year he moved to Flagstaff in Northern Arizona to accept a position with the Coconino County Department of Public Health. In 1983 Bill moved back to California and went to work as a health inspector with Ventura County. In 1985 Bill “came home” to Los Angeles County and began his career with the County’s Department of Public Health as a district health inspector in the Hollywood/Wilshire office. In 1990, Bill moved to the Hazardous Waste Control Program as a Hazardous Materials Specialist. In 1991, when the Hazardous Waste Control Program was transferred to the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Bill was assigned to the North (Sylmar) Inspection office. Later, Bill was promoted to Supervising Hazardous Materials Specialist of the Southeast Inspection office. After two years, he returned to the North Inspection office as Supervisor.



Other than a year and a half stint as the Acting Manager of the Division’s Special Operations Section, Bill remained at the North Inspection office until his retirement on March 28, 2014. Bill plans to go camping, travelling on his recreational vehicle, visiting his parents in Arizona, his sons in Colorado, and spending time with his four grandkids. A second honeymoon trip to Niagara Falls is planned for this fall as well as other exciting trips.

THAO BUI—By Victor Nanadiego

Thao Bui arrived in the US from Vietnam on April 30, 1975, the last day of the Vietnamese War. She received a Certificate in Computer Information Systems Programming at Cerritos College in May 1988. She then worked in our HHMD as a Student Professional Worker until she was hired by Bonnie Chase as a computer data processor. She later got promoted as Intermediate Typist Clerk on Dec. 1, 1989. She was again promoted to Senior Typist Clerk on Dec. 1, 1994. In 1995, she transferred to the Cal-ARP Unit where she worked under seven supervisors: Barbara Yu, Tom Klinger, Lance Ralston, Victor Nanadiego, Eiji Watanabe, Ken Smith and finally to Richard Clark.

After working for 26 years in our Division (her one and only job), she retired on March 27, 2014. Her plans are to spend more time with her big family, travel out of state and do volunteer work in her church.



We wish Thao the best of luck and a wonderful retirement. We will miss you in our daily walks!!!

IN MEMORIAM

By Teresa Quiaoit

John Arthur Vincent was born on April 28, 1967 in North Miami Florida. John earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology at Florida State University. He went to graduate school at Barry University and earned his Master in Biomedical Science.

Before coming to the Fire Department, John worked for the Los Angeles County Public Works as a Senior Waste Control Engineering Inspector. In September 2006, he transferred to the Los Angeles County Fire Department and was assigned to the HHMD Inspection Section. His last assignment was at Technical Services Unit where he got promoted to Hazardous Materials Specialist III. John was responsible for providing technical and informational technology support to the Division; acted as liaison to CERS Regulator User Group; Santa Monica CUPA, Torrance PA, Agricultural Commissioner PA, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works PA and to the State Violation Data Dictionary Steering Committee.

John was a dedicated employee, who touched the hearts of the people around him. His positive outlook and kindness will always be remembered.



A Closer Look on Diabetes
By Dan Zenarosa

Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death not only in the United States but also in the world according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization. In 2012, the total number of people with diabetes in the United States was 25.8 million, which was 8.3% of the population.

Diabetes is a disease where there is an absence or lack of the hormone insulin which is important for transporting energy giving glucose into the cells. There are two types of diabetes: Type 1 or juvenile onset diabetes and Type 2 or adult onset diabetes. The former affects children during their early age and the latter occurs during the adult life of a person. Type 1 usually has no insulin secreted in the pancreas and depends on insulin injection in order to survive. Type 2 has some insulin secretion from the pancreas but not enough to transport all the glucose into the cells. They need insulin injection or oral medication to help in the cell transport.

There are 79 million people who have pre-diabetes, whose blood sugar levels are elevated above the healthy range but not high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. This is analogous to having a "lull before the storm", wherein one does not experience any symptom but will eventually have one if no corrective action is taken. Symptoms of diabetes are: easy fatigability, losing weight, urinating more often, feeling thirsty, hungry even though you already ate and experiencing tingling sensations in your hands, legs or feet.

Untreated diabetes can lead to stroke, coronary vascular disease, blindness, kidney failure, kidney dialysis and non-traumatic lower extremity amputations. The risk of death among people with diabetes is about twice that of people without the disease.

There are several hypotheses for why diabetes is rising. One is the immune response to the use of cow's milk in infants up to six months old, who are bottle fed instead of breastfed by their mothers. The protein in the cow's milk called "casein" is believed to be recognized as a foreign body by our antibody. The immunologic response to destroy this protein leads to the destruction of the cells of the islet of Langerhans of the pancreas which produces insulin.

The second cause is the effects of increasing chemical pollutants in the environment such as: persistent organic pollutants like pesticide dioxin, DDT, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs), bisphenol A (BPA) and such names as aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, mirex, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, toxaphene, tributyltin, and others which are associated with increasing risk for diabetes.

The third possible culprit in the rising rate of diabetes is the sunshine hypothesis which shows a link between Vitamin D deficiency and diabetes. Decreased circulating levels of Vitamin D have been linked to decreased insulin secretion and increased insulin resistance.



The fourth possible cause for the rise of diabetes is obesity. Children are gaining more weight as a result of eating too many calories and not getting enough physical activity. Children 8-18 years of age spend an average of 7.5 hours a day using entertainment media including TV, computers, video games, cell phones, and movies. This results not only in decreased physical activities but also leads to snacking and eating in front of the TV.

The fifth possible cause for the rise in the incidence is the increasing life span among senior citizens. As people get older, the insulin producing beta cells of the pancreas slowly die due to simple aging. With lack of physical activity and lower metabolism, expect the onset of diabetes.

In medical school, the etiology of diabetes is taught more as coming from the interaction between genetics and environmental factors. Family history is an important predisposing factor in making the diagnosis. One's genetic make-up is inherited from both parents. So if one parent has diabetes, it is most likely that one of the siblings will get it. The environmental factors come in with the interactions between Coxsackie B4 virus, the pancreas and the immune system. The virus infects the beta cells of the pancreas, triggering an autoimmune or inflammatory response leading to its destruction. Overall, the cause of diabetes is not likely due to one single factor but a combination of several.

In managing diabetes, the CDC recommends exercising for 30 minutes a day for five days (total of 150 hours) which could lower the risk of diabetes by 58%. According to the Mayo Clinic, the best course of diet for diabetics is to limit intake of animal fats and processed sugars, and increase the amount of natural fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

In the fight against diabetes, changing the life styles that have given rise to this deadly condition and adhering to a healthy, life giving alternatives are most effective. Our efforts will not only make us live longer but also improve the quality of life by avoiding the use of oxygen ventilators, dialysis machines, wheel chairs, becoming bed-ridden with ulcerating non-healing wounds, and avoiding the heavy burdens placed on our family taking care of us. An analogy for perseverance is to imagine preparing yourselves for the Olympics Games or the World Cup. You follow the training regimens; do the exercise routines; and all the necessary steps to increase your chances of making it and winning. If you don't do it, you are guaranteed to fail. If you do it, at least you have a chance of making it to the competition (longer life) and doing what you enjoy (quality of life). As a wise man once said, "our fate is in our hands. It all depends on us."

Marijuana Oil Extraction on the Rise
By Mario Tresieras

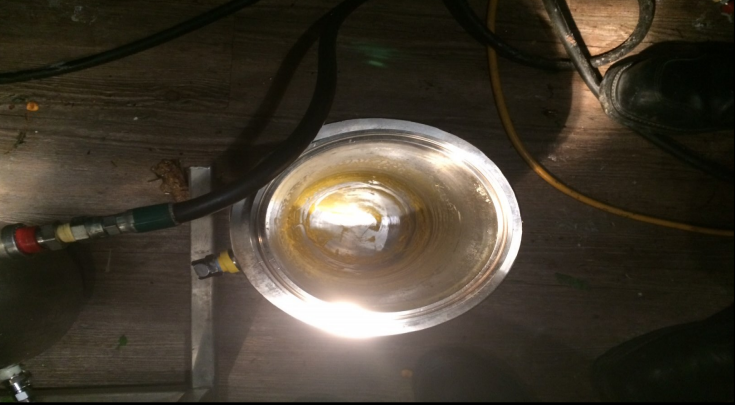
On April 8, 2014, the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) received three separate calls involving butane honey oil (BHO) operations. The first one took place in Malibu, the second in Glendale and the third in Huntington Park. These incidents involved two explosions and fires with a total of three people injured and transported to burn centers.

The process of extracting the active component from the marijuana plant (known as tetrahydrocannabinol or THC) to create the hash oil otherwise known as honey, wax or oil is on the rise. The lead police agency in our area, the Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Team, also known as LA IMPACT, reports that honey oil is selling for \$50 per gram on the street. It is believed with the increase of vaporizing or vaping, the demand for the marijuana honey oil is on the rise. Individuals can now smoke a concentrated dose of THC and avoid the traditional marijuana odor.

Unfortunately, many people are not taking appropriate precautions in dealing with butane which is a highly flammable gas. This gas is added to tubes filled with marijuana (see photo at right) where it acts as a solvent to extract the THC from the marijuana. The gas is heavier than air and accumulates in the surrounding area until it finds an ignition source such as the pilot light, static electricity or a light switch. The results can be a severe explosion and fire. Individuals involved in these recent explosions sustained second and third-degree burns throughout their bodies.

For the first time, a new extraction process was identified at the Malibu incident. An elaborate design utilizing Freon as the solvent to extract the THC was observed (see photo at left). The setup was so sophisticated it included a vacuum with a recovery system to capture and reuse the Freon similar to a vehicle's air-conditioning system that circulates Freon. This method appeared to create a clean product and eliminated the fire hazard from the process.

HHMD is responsible for monitoring the atmosphere for hazardous conditions, identifying and quantifying all hazardous substances associated with the drug manufacturing process, determining the scope of the clean-up, and overseeing the removal of all hazardous materials onsite. HHMD will access State Clandestine Drug Lab funds to activate a clean-up contractor for the transport and disposal of all hazardous materials and lab equipment onsite. As the Health Officer on



Hash oil aka Butane Honey Oil, Wax. Dabs.



Marijuana in glass tubes



THC Extraction using Freon. Photos by M.Tresieras

scene, once the lab has been disassembled and the clean-up completed, the site is declared safe for re-occupancy.

It will be a very busy summer with many more of these types of incidents with the popularization of vaporized smoke applications and the allure of quick, easy profits.



The Challenge of Hazardous Waste Counting
By Jojo Comandante

Today’s CUPA inspector is faced with multiple challenges. The new, required electronic reporting, or CERS (California Environmental Reporting System), had many businesses and agencies scrambling for answers to questions that are discovered as they go through the process. Laws and regulations are very fluid on several issues, including excluded recyclable materials and universal waste. Then, there is the concept of hazardous waste counting. What happens if a business generated over 1000 kg of hazardous waste in June 2013, but never exceeded 300 kg in every other month of the fiscal year? What requirements would the CUPA inspector impose on the business?

Generators of hazardous wastes range from large refineries that cover an area more than two square miles to a small one-employee neighborhood drycleaner. Never is that more evident than here in Los Angeles County. The Southwest District Inspection Office alone, has over 100 Large Quantity Generators (LQGs) and six refinery facilities. It has also over 2,500 small businesses, outnumbering the LQGs. The risk they pose to the public is wide ranging and the lawmakers recognize that. The degree of regulation to which each generator is subject depends to a large extent on how much waste each generator produces every calendar month. This is where hazardous waste counting comes in.

There are three categories of hazardous waste generators:

1. Large Quantity Generators (LQGs):

These are businesses that generate more than 1,000 kg (2200 pounds) of hazardous wastes. For liquids, that translates to 150 – 350 gallons, depending on the density. The higher the density of the liquid, the lower is the corresponding value in gallons. These businesses are only allowed to accumulate the hazardous waste for up to 90 days. In addition, they are required to have an emergency coordinator and formal written contingency plans and emergency procedures. A waste tank system integrity assessment is required. Written logs of tank inspection are required.

2. Small Quantity Generators (SQGs):

These are businesses that generate between 100 kg to 1,000 kg of hazardous waste. The accumulation time is not to exceed 180 days. SQGs transporting hazardous waste for off-site treatment, storage, or disposal over distances greater than 200 miles may accumulate waste for up to 270 days. They are not

HHMD Hazardous Waste Training Seminar

The California Certified Unified Program Agency (CalCUPA) Forum Board sponsored a three day Hazardous Waste Seminar on Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) in the City of Burbank on June 10-12, 2014. A total of 79 inspectors from all over California attended this training with 48 participants coming from the Health HazMat Division of Los Angeles County Fire Department. CalCUPA provides training all over the State for inspectors who implement the Unified Programs.



required to have written contingency plans and an established training program. A waste tank system integrity assessment is not required.

3. Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs):

These are businesses that generate less than 100 kg of hazardous waste. Accumulation time limit is 90 days from the time the 100 kg limit was generated. Extensions can be granted either by DTSC for RCRA wastes, or the CUPA for non-RCRA wastes. Waste tank system integrity assessment is not required.

One of the challenges in waste counting is the determination of which wastes to count toward the generator status. One of the major issues in contention is universal wastes. Under State guidelines, all universal wastes should be counted toward the LQG status. Most CUPAs in the state disagree with this guideline and don’t want to include universal wastes. The California CUPA Forum Hazardous Waste Technical Advisory Group is meeting to address this issue. Currently, Los Angeles County CUPA does not include universal wastes toward the LQG status.

On the issue of how to classify businesses that generate over 1,000 kg in only one calendar month but not in the other eleven months of the year, Los Angeles County, specifically the Southwest District, does not have this type of businesses. Almost all the time, LQGs really generate more than 1000 kg in a calendar month all year long.

For more information on waste counting, please visit www.calcupa.org.



Continuation of Bill’s Corner:

When you initiate a file review process for inspection activity, through the completion of the inspection process and abatement of violations (or enforcement action taken), the collection and storage of “paper” documents will eventually be eliminated as we cycle through all our facility inspections. Keep in mind that our legacy and how people perceive our agency, are often based in their review of our inspection and other activity files/reports. Be accurate, complete and include all the necessary components when now storing information electronically instead of in paper folders.

There are other efforts that require our attention now or in the near future. These will be new and will challenge our current resources and capabilities, including the support staff from divisions such as Finance, Information Management, Materials Management, Fleet or others. With these challenges come new responsibilities, but also will require a process to put them in place.

- The Governor’s Refinery Task Force is crafting regulations that place new requirements on both regulated facilities and UPAs.
- The County Toxic Threat Strike Team will require focused attention in designated impacted communities. How we get involved and to what extent are under development now.
- The continuing evolution of risk-based prioritization of work may change the process and frequency of facility inspections.
- The concern over rail transportation of Bakken crude oil may lead to changes in our Area and Regional Plans and

NEW HHMD INSPECTORS

After two months of rigorous training, 13 new Health Hazardous Materials Specialist inspectors graduated from the HHMD Training Academy. Two of them came from the private sector, three came from the Department of Public Works and the remaining eight came from Environmental Health Division of the Department of Public Health. They are the following with their respective District Office assignments:

Clockwise/Back row: Todd Yamakawa (Southeast), David Aoki (Central), Paolo Zenarosa (Southwest), Ramiro Mariano (Southwest)

Second Row: Sean Phan (Central), Eric Poomiwatracanont (Southeast), Tim Hua (Southeast), Mauricio Nunez Flores (West), Miguel Cervantes (West),

First Row (Ladies): Deborah Bernhard (West), Jennifer Levenson (Southwest), Sharon Dela Rea (Central), Raquel Doom (Southwest)

It is our pride and honor to welcome this distinguished group of Lucky 13 inspectors to our Health HazMat Division!!!

subsequently require that we coordinate with first responders in new and enhanced ways.

- Technology advancements are always a challenge – to use the best available tools at the right time and not allow these tools to reshape or overburden our core mission.
- The evolution of Environmental Justice groups, and their desire to be included in certain aspects of our job, including their use of technology to monitor, for example, air emissions at refineries. In addition, the public at large, at times through these EJ groups are demanding more information and communication with regulatory agencies.
- Our involvement in disasters, both within and external to LA County. Through a contract with the CUPA Forum, a mutual aid package is being developed by a vendor for UPAs to assist each other following a major disaster.
- The evolution of our damage inspection activity utilizing new electronic tools and adding new areas to our reports such as the number of structures “saved”.

So I take you back to the award from Cal-EPA, a leadership award acknowledging some of our recent accomplishments. I ask that each of us utilize our knowledge, experience and expertise and to assume the role of leaders in our profession. In one sense, leaders are put in their positions to “lead” their organization. In another sense, the organization is a leader, moved forward by ideas, projects or challenges that demonstrate innovation, command, and going beyond what is expected or considered the norm. Los Angeles County has long been recognized as a leader in our management of hazardous materials/waste programs and this award was validation of the way HHMD conducts business on a daily basis. I thank each of you for your hard work and dedication—let’s keep this effort going forward with our new challenges.



The Lucky 13 of Class 2013

AEO Penalty Box
By Fernando Florez

The Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) reached an enforcement milestone with its 250th, Administrative Enforcement Order (AEO) filed this year. The number of enforcement cases has increased, as result of our efforts to streamlining the process to file and submit AEO cases. Beyond taking formal action and imposing penalties, staff efforts helped achieve compliance that resulted in the protection of public health and the environment.

The following cases settled during the Fiscal Year 2012-13:

- **Hi Shear Corporation** in Torrance was fined \$15,000 for failure to remove hazardous waste from secondary containment and not meeting tank standards. Case submitted by E. Hernandez.
- **Oakridge Industries, Inc.**, in Pomona settled for \$12,000 for failure to prevent the release of hazardous waste resulting in a chemical reaction. Case submitted by P. Biren.
- **Pacific Scientific HTL** in Duarte settled for \$12,000 for failure to maintain a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and lack of employee training, which resulted in a small chemical fire. Case submitted by J. McCarron.
- **Chen Jia, Inc.**, in Sun Valley was fined \$20,000 for failure to maintain a facility to prevent a release and for improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by S. Brodsky.
- **Magnesium Alloy Products Company, Inc.**, in Compton settled for \$16,000 for improper treatment of an ineligible waste stream and improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Hernandez.
- **Safe Plating, Inc.**, in Industry settled for \$20,000 for not meeting tank standards, unauthorized treatment of hazardous waste and failure to prevent the release of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Bald.
- **Aerodynamic Plating Company, Inc.** in Gardena was fined \$9,000 for improper disposal to the ground and not meeting tank standards. Case submitted by J. Rooney and C. Ogunnaya.
- **Astro Aluminum Treating Co., Inc.**, in South Gate was fined \$12,000 for improper disposal of hazardous waste and failure to prepare a waste manifest for the transport of hazardous waste. Case submitted by Investigations Unit



and C. Ogunnaya.

- **Captek Softgel International, Inc.**, in Cerritos settled for \$17,000 for the improper disposal of hazardous waste that resulted in a trash fire at a transfer station. Case submitted by P. Biren.
- **Sav On Plating, Inc.**, in Paramount was fined \$8,000 for failure to maintain and prevent a release of hazardous waste and improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Bald.
- **Sun Coast Merchandise Corp.**, in Commerce settled for \$5,000 for exceeding accumulation time periods and improper management of contaminated rags. Case submitted by T. Zehdar.
- **Quail Creek Trading, Inc.**, in Los Angeles was fined \$5,000 for exceeding accumulation time periods and failure to maintain the facility to prevent a release. Case submitted by G. To.
- **Dyanco, Inc.**, in South El Monte settled for \$5,000 for failure to maintain a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste. Case submitted by A. Liu.
- **Lynx Professional Grills, Inc.**, in Commerce was fined \$6,000 for improper disposal of metal dust and improper management of contaminated rags. Case submitted by T. Zehdar.
- **Active Recycling Company, Inc.**, in Los Angeles settled for \$5,000 dollars for improper disposal of hazardous waste and improper management of universal waste. Case submitted by A. Ng and A Gebresilasie.
- **Perry Color Card and American Sample** were fined \$3,800 dollars each for the improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by J. McCarron and S. Townsend.

Total Fine and Penalties= \$ 170,800

Release or Threatened Release of Hazardous Materials
By Michael Whitehead

State statute identifies two government entities in California that receive verbal notification from owners or operators about significant releases or a threatened release of hazardous materials at their industrial facilities. The first entity is the State Warning Center (SWC) in the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES), and the second entity is the local unified program agency (UPA) in some of the local fire or health departments.

In Los Angeles County, the role of the UPA is delegated to the Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) of the Health Hazardous Materials Division in the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Verbal notification allows for the SWC and ERC to ensure that other emergency responders coordinate their resources to protect the public and environment from harm during a hazardous material release. Effective coordination, however, depends upon the timing of this verbal notification by the person who discovers the hazardous material release. Because this coordination is so important, the state statute requires the owner or operator to make this verbal notification immediately. Furthermore, the statute authorizes the UPA to apply formal enforcement on the owner or operator by using either the civil process through the district attorney or the administrative enforcement order through the UPA to assess penalties of \$2,000 when there is a violation of this statute.

The OES publishes “California Hazardous Materials Spill/Release Notification Guidance” that contains emergency notification guidance. The December 2013 electronic version, for example, is available from the OES website at <http://www.calema.ca.gov/HazardousMaterials/Pages/Spill-Release-Reporting.aspx>. This 19 page reference explains the statutory requirements for owners and operators at industrial facilities to report releases or threatened releases of hazardous material. The guidance book includes the responsibilities for immediate verbal notification:

1. Identifying by name or position of the owner or operator as any employee, authorized representative, or agent or designee of facility that handles hazardous material;
2. Mandating an immediate verbal notification by calling the SWC at (800) 852-7550;
3. Listing the information about the release or threatened release :
 - a) Identity of caller;
 - b) Location, date, and time of release;
 - c) Threatened waterways or storm drains;
 - d) Quantity;
 - e) Chemical name;
 - f) Description of what happened;
4. Requiring verbal notification to the UPA by calling (323)-890-4317; and
5. Providing written reports when required by any state or local agency.



The absence from state statutes and regulations of a table or reference that gives reportable quantities for each type of hazardous material raises questions about what constitutes a “significant” release. The absence of this reference document calls for local UPA and OES to define conditions that constitute an emergency threat to health and safety.

The following guidelines were developed by the local emergency planning in 2013, which describe what constitutes a “significant” hazardous materials release and require owners or operators to make verbal notification to the SWC and ERC:

1. Inability of facility employees to easily and quickly control the release.
2. Contamination to the soil, unpaved ground, or roadway on the facility.
3. Exposure from the release to any individual.
4. Presence of a regulated substance as one of the ingredients in the release.
5. Potential for the release to go off-site and actuate an evacuation procedure.
6. Dispatch of emergency responders of a local agency.
7. Estimation that a listed hazardous material in the release reaches or exceeds the federal reportable quantity.

The need for immediate verbal notification by the SWC and ERC is important for both the responding agencies and the facility. First of all, the notification allows SWC and the ERC to give accurate information to emergency responders during the hazardous materials release to organize resources for controlling the emergency. Second, the immediate verbal notification by the owner or operator demonstrates the effectiveness of a facility’s emergency response plan.

By working together, emergency responders and facility operators can mitigate or reduce the hazardous material release’s impact on health and safety of emergency responders, neighboring residents, schools, dependent care facilities, and the environment.

SENATE BILL (SB) 1261-BUSINESS PLAN LEGISLATION—ROUND 2
By Bill Jones

SB 1261 (Hana Beth Jackson) is now making its way through the California legislature. This bill is a follow up to SB 483, carried by the same legislator, that involves amendments and updates to Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.95, Articles 1 and 2. The changes proposed in SB 1261 are the more complicated issues that required further discussions by the work group established to formulate the changes in Chapter 6.95. This effort is ongoing and while many of the amendments are moving forward, there are a few that have hit significant roadblocks and will be addressed outside of legislative arena.

These include: 1) The concept of developing a statewide emergency response system by requiring California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA) to develop this system and pay for it through a nominal surcharge to businesses statewide. This proposal has met with resistance from businesses who feel they already paid for this service as part of the original fees paid to build the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). In addition to these surcharge issues, the California Office of Emergency Services and Cal-EPA have not been able to decide who would ultimately be responsible for this 24/7 CERS-based system.

2) The idea of creating regulations to further define a process for trade-secret submittals has met with challenges relative to the original intent and a new issue raised by business concerns that the information provided on a trade-secret formulation also could potentially have homeland security issues. The two issues are clearly not connected, however, it is felt that moving forward with this issue could be problematic and perhaps could be solved by implementing processes that are already in place. This issue will undoubtedly continue to evolve.

In addition, several other changes are being proposed in the bill:

1) Redefine “Business” to connect to a “Unified Program Facility” and include limited liability partnerships, corporations and other business entities in §25501.

2) Changes throughout from “Emergency Rescue Personnel” vs “Emergency Response Personnel.”

3) Redefine “hazardous material” in §25501 to consolidate and update. This is an area of recent interest where the concern has been raised over the elimination of “discretionary” language to allow UPA’s and facility’s to include materials not covered in the listed items. It is unclear how this issue will be resolved at this point.

4) Eliminate the definition of “SIC or NAICS Code” under §25501 because the section where it was referenced was deleted in SB 483.

5) Require notification under §25505(a) to the Secretary if a unified program agency requires additional information under the business plan via a local ordinance approved by the governing body.

6) Clarify in §25505(c) that the emergency response plans, procedures, inventory and site map shall be readily available to business personnel to deal with the issue of unified program



agencies requiring hard copies for their use (unless required by local ordinance).

7) Eliminate redundant data dictionary language in §25506(a) that is already contained in Title 27.

8) Redefine reporting requirement for compressed gas in §25506(b) to the “physical state” at which it is stored for consistency.

9) Remove provisions that the unified program agency provide notice (and due process) in §25507 and elsewhere to change reporting requirements because the processes are used infrequently and the process would become cumbersome.

10) Thresholds in §25507(a) reorganized and consolidated for clarity with new materials added such as compressed air in cylinders, bottles or tanks used by emergency response agencies.

11) Clarification on how to report radioactive materials in §25507(a)(6) discussed and unresolved at this time.

12) Re-examine and amend language in retail establishments found in §25507(e) including discussions regarding distribution centers.

13) Additional amendments to the remote site exemption in §25507.2, such as redefining “unstaffed facility,” updating requirements for one-time submittals into the statewide information management system, increasing thresholds, and reevaluating the purpose of maintaining a copy of the HMBP onsite.

14) Including universal waste, as defined, in threshold reporting quantities.

15) Addition of administrative penalties in §25508 as allowed in §25515.2. This was done to be consistent with other UPA program elements where the administrative option is explicitly included under the program’s statute as opposed to a generic reference under the CUPA statutes (Chapter 6.11).

16) In §25508 (b), except as required by a certificate of occupancy, a business shall not be in violation until 30 days after the business becomes subject to electronic submittal requirements.

17) Clarification under annual reviews in §25508.2 within the statewide information management system.

18) Public record requirements in §25509 clarified to reflect the statewide information management system.

19) Following extensive discussions on release reporting requirements in §25510(c), establishment of an advisory committee by Office of Emergency Services (OES) to develop regulations to further define requirements by January 1, 2016.

20) Addition in §25510(d) that requires a unified program agency to maintain non-emergency contact numbers for release reports with changes communicated to OES.

21) In §25511(c), allows a unified program agency to designate the county Ag Commissioner to perform inspections at agricultural handlers pursuant to a written agreement with specified elements.

While our expectations are positive that the bill will go through, once it enters the legislative arena, anything can happen. We are hopeful that the bill will move forward and be accepted by the wider business, government and Non-Governmental Organization community. This effort has largely been spearheaded by the CUPA Forum Board and Hazardous Materials Technical Advisory Group along with representatives from industry, prosecutors and other interested parties.



Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals— A Growing Dilemma

We live in a world where man-made chemicals are so pervasive and have become part of our everyday life. To this category belongs the endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC) which affect the endocrine system and other developmental processes of humans and wildlife species. According to the World Health Organization, “an increasing number of chemicals (close to 800 chemicals) to which humans in industrialized areas are exposed have been shown to interfere with hormone synthesis, action or metabolism.

Endocrine glands are found in organs of our body that include the ovary, testes, thyroid and adrenal glands, pancreas, pituitary, as well as the placenta, liver, kidneys and cells of the gastrointestinal tract. They are important because they coordinate and regulate many essential body functions such as growth and maturation, behavior, balance and maintenance of water and salt, glucose cell utilization, reaction to stimuli, reproduction and embryo development.

EDCs are found among many classes of chemicals including persistent organic pollutants (POPs), current-use pesticides, phytoestrogens, metals, active ingredients in pharmaceuticals and additives or contaminants in food, personal care products, cosmetics, plastics, textile and construction materials. These include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, bisphenol A (BPA) from plastics and food can lining; phthalates from cosmetics, air fresheners, PVC and toys; dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) from pesticides; vinclozolin from fungicides; and diethylstilbestrol (DES) from pharmaceutical agents. Certain metals such as cadmium, mercury, arsenic, lead, manganese, and zinc are also believed to disrupt endocrine system.

Chemical substances can disrupt the normal functioning of the endocrine gland in three different ways:

- 1. They can mimic a natural hormone and lock onto a receptor within the cell. The disruptor may give a signal stronger than the natural hormone or at the wrong time.
- 2. They can bind to a receptor within a cell and prevent the correct hormone from binding. The normal signal then fails to occur and the body fails to respond properly.
- 3. Disruptors can interfere with or block the way natural hormones and receptors are made or controlled. If the endocrine disruptor stimulates or inhibits the endocrine system, then increased or decreased amounts of hormone may be produced.

In 2012, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and WHO, in collaboration with international experts, have taken a step forward by supporting the development of a main document on endocrine disruptors. Their findings show that many endocrine-related diseases are on the rise:

- Large proportions (up to 40%) of young men in some countries have low semen quality, which reduces their



ability to father children.

- Non-descended testes in young boys are linked with exposure to diethylstilbestrol (DES) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and with occupational pesticide exposure during pregnancy.
- The incidence of genital malformations, such as non-descending testes and penile malformations, in baby boys has increased over time or levelled off at unfavorably high rates.
- The incidence of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as pre-term birth and low birth weight, has increased in many countries.
- Neurobehavioral disorders associated with thyroid disruption affect a high proportion of children in some countries and have increased over past decades.
- Global rates of endocrine-related cancers (breast, endometrial, ovarian, prostate, testicular and thyroid) have been increasing over the past 40–50 years.
- The prevalence of obesity and Type 2 diabetes has dramatically increased worldwide over the last 40 years. WHO estimates that the number with Type 2 diabetes increased from 153 million to 347 million between 1980 and 2008.

Currently, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is implementing an Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP) which is screening and testing chemicals for their potential to affect the estrogen, androgen or thyroid hormone system. It is expected that by 2017, the EPA will determine the endocrine related effects of each chemical under testing and obtain information about its effects at various doses.

Until the EDSP testing results are available and EDCs are banned due to toxicity, we should take precautionary judgment, increase awareness of EDCs in consumer products by reading labels and restricting the use of those products containing these chemicals. We can reduce early exposure by using safe alternatives, such as using glass containers instead of plastics, buying organic food that is free of pesticides and using cosmetics that are 95% to 100% organic. According to Abraham Maslow, a renowned American psychologist, “Ignorance makes real choice impossible. What you don’t know has power over you. However, knowing it, brings it under your control, and makes it subject to your choice.”